NUMB. IX.

The GRUMBLER.

By Squire GIZZARD.

------ *Nor is there Law more juſt*
in that, he that wou'd cut another Man's Throat, ſhou'd have his own cut firſt. Dryden.

From *Thurſday* April 14. to *Tueſday* April 19. 1715.

THE other Day while the Parliament was ſitting, my Curioſity led me to the Court of Requeſts, and from thence into the *Lobby* of the *Houſe* of *Commons*, where I found many of my Relations attending with their Hands full of Papers. A true *Gizzard* cannot, at the ſhorteſt, have leſs than an Ell or a Yard of Complaint. I muſt own, the generality of my Kindred may be gueſt at, by the ſhrugs of their Shoulders and the ſourneſs of their Countenances; but a true *Lobby Gizzard* is diſcover'd by a more infallible Token, which is the length of his Petition. If you ſee a Perſon with as much *grumbling* Parchment, as might ſerve to make him a Doublet or pair of Breeches, you may conclude him a real Branch of the *Gizzard*'s Family.

I wou'd not be thought to intimate by this, that every one who appears with Parchment or Paper in his Hand at the *Lobby*, is a *Grumbler*, ſince there are ſeveral belonging to that Place, whoſe ſole Buſineſs it is, to receive Rents from the *Gizzard*'s, to the no ſmall propagation of our Family Diſtemper. Now theſe People are ſo far from being of Kin to us, that ſhould the *Gizzard*'s once come to be cur'd, they would be undone by it. For as we *grumble* becauſe of Grievances, ſo nothing but the want of Grievances can make them complain. Theſe ſort of Creatures may properly be ſtil'd *Anti-Gizzard*'s; our Diſcontents being Hearts-eaſe to them; our Gall to them is ſweet; as we pine, they fatten, and the more we *grumble*, the more do they rejoyce. But notwithſtanding that we have no love for theſe *Petition-drivers*; nay, although we know that they are ready upon all occaſions to devour a *Gizzard*, yet it may be prov'd every Seſſion of Parliament, that many of our Family trudge it on Foot in the Dirt, only to enable one of theſe Fellows to ride in his Coach.

My eldeſt Brother (who has loſt the Election at his Borough) is, I fear, like to become a *Lobby-Grumbler*, and conſequently a Tributary to theſe *Gentlemen of Sollicitation*. Laſt Poſt I received a Letter from him out of the Country, wherein he gives me an Account of his ill Succeſs, he complains much againſt the Mayor, and grumbles at the whole Corporation. The Letter is as follows,

To ANTHONY GIZZARD, *Eſq;*

Dear TONY,

'I Am out of all Patience at the Uſage I have 'met with: I have loſt my Election, after 'having been ſecure of carrying it theſe Six 'Months. The Rogues voted againſt me, after 'they had empty'd my Hogſheads and taken my 'Money: Nay, their very Wives and Daughters 'turn'd Tail upon me, after all the Pains I had 'been at to oblige them. The Mayor refus'd to 'return me, though I offer'd him all the Money 'he could in Conſcience demand. Sir *Francis* 'outbid me, but I am reſolv'd to Petition againſt 'him for Bribery. I hope very ſhortly to ſee the 'whole Corporation disfranchis'd. *Sunday* next I 'ſhall ſet out for *London*, and deſign to ſee you 'very ſoon at the *Ship*. In the mean time remain

Dear TONY,

Your unfortunate Brother,

HUGH GIZZARD.

P. S. 'I deſire you to communicate this Letter 'to the *Groaning-Board*, for I will not Petition 'without their Approbation.

I was

I was very ſorry to find that my Brother's Circumſtances oblig'd him to Travel on *Sundays*, and am in ſome fear, that he will not arrive this Year to the Station of a *Lobby Member*, by which means I ſhall loſe abundance of Parliament-News: However according to *Hugh*'s Requeſt, I laid his Epiſtle on *Monday* before our Board. Which my Brother *Tom* had no ſooner heard read, than he burſt out into a loud Laughter. 'What (ſays he) 'does my Brother talk of petitioning againſt Sir '*Francis* for Bribery, when he confeſſes himſelf 'guilty of the ſame. Sir *Francis*, he owns, out-'bid him, and 'tis but a juſt Puniſhment upon 'him, ſince he himſelf was one of the firſt that 'debauch'd the Corporation. I do not doubt, but '*tis* the Caſe of many other Country Squires, 'who, by their laviſh treating of neighbouring 'Boroughs, have invited Strangers, who had 'deeper Purſes than themſelves, to come thither 'and fling them out with Ignominy, at the very 'Places where their Anceſtors had been choſen 'with Honour. I ſay, with *Honour*, becauſe Bo-'roughs then ſollicited their neighbouring Gen-'tlemen to accept of their Choice, and repreſent 'them in Parliament. And even ſo lately as in 'the Reign of King *Charles* II. *Andrew Marvel* 'was ſo far from bribing the Borough he repre-'ſented, that he duly receiv'd from them the Sti-'pend anciently alloted to *Members*, for defraying 'the Charges of attending the Parliament, for 'their Corporations Service. But ſince Corruption 'is now grown ſo general, ſurely thoſe who give 'into the Practice of it, have no reaſon to mur-'mur, when the longeſt Purſe carries it.

When my Brother *Tom* had finiſh'd his Harangue, the Board came to the following Reſolution.

Reſolved, 'That leave be given to our Brother '*Hugh Gizzard* to *grumble* at his not being elect-'ed, provided the ſaid *Hugh* gave as much Mo-'ney to the Electors as his Antagoniſt. But in 'caſe he ſuffer'd himſelf to be outbrib'd, then 'we cannot allow him to *grumble*, and therefore 'do adviſe him not to *Petition*.

Then the *Groaning Board* proceeded to the Regulation of all *Lobby Grumblers*, and after a long Debate, came to the following Reſolutions, which the Secretary entred under the Title of

APPENDIX to the RULES already regiſter'd in the FOLIO GRUMBLE-BOOK.

'WHereas many honeſt *Gizzard*'s, by indulg-'ing their own *grumbling* Tempers, have 'unadviſedly taken upon them the State and Poſt 'of *Lobby Members*, thereby flinging good Money 'after bad, to the no ſmall impoveriſhment of 'our Family. We do therefore, in order to pre-'vent all ſuch fooliſh and deſtructive Proceedings 'for the future, hereby *declare* and *reſolve*

Imprimis. 'That no Perſon or Perſons be li-'cens'd to *grumble* at having their Petitions ad-'judg'd frivolous, unleſs before petitioning, they 'had ſufficient Reaſon to grumble at their not be-'ing choſen.

2. 'That no Perſon ſhall be admitted to have 'good reaſon to *grumble* at his not being choſen 'that cannot prove himſelf innocent of all thoſ 'Facts which he charges upon his Antagoniſt.

3. 'That no Trickſter ſhall be permitted to '*grumble* at his being out-witted, nor any Briber 'at his being outbrib'd.

4. 'That for the better regulating of that So-'ciety, our Couſin Mrs. *Eleanor James*, is hereby 'declared Preſident of the *Lobby Grumblers*.

5. 'That all ſuch *Grumblers*, carry their Peti-'ons to the ſaid Preſident Mrs. *Eleanor James*, 'be by her approv'd of, at her Office at the T 'of the *Parliament-Stairs*, where ſhe will 'fail to attend this Seſſion, while the Houſ 'ſitting.

After this I communicated to the Board a ter from a Member of a Corporation, whi directed

To ANTHONY GIZZARD, *E Comptroller of the* GROANING BOARD.

SIR,

'I Cannot help telling you, that your Orders 'for admitting Perſons to, and excluding 'them from the ancient and laudable freedom of '*Grumbling*, are Tyrannical and Defective, as 'not including a Caſe ſo worthy of Licence as 'mine. I am a Voter, and have acquitted my 'ſelf faithfully in the Chief Office of a Corpo-'ration in the Weſt. My Inclinations have al-'ways been for thoſe worthy Patriots, who make 'the Laws of the Land the Standard of our O-'bedience. But, alas! my Wife! the blind 'Zeal of my Wife! To keep Peace at home, I 'have been forc'd to invalidate one good Vote 'by giving another bad one; ſo that for theſe 'laſt Ten Years, I have loſt, in effect, my Li-'berty of Voting; for all Arguments prove in-'effectual. I hope therefore the Honourable '*Groaning Board* will take my Caſe into conſide-'ration, there being ſcarce a Borough in our 'Parts, that has not ſome of my Brethren, who 'all expect a Licence to *grumble*, as well as

Worthy SIR,

Your moſt humble Servant,

TIMOTHY WHIFFLE.

Upon reading this Letter, the Board granted the following Licence, ſign'd, underſign'd, and counterſign'd in Form before preſcrib'd.

'WHereas the Caſe of *Timothy Whiffle* ſeemeth 'to us exceeding hard, and whereas it 'appeareth to be compris'd in the *Ninth Rule* en-'tred in our *FOLIO GRUMBLE-BOOK*: We 'do hereby Licence the ſaid *Timothy Whiffle* to '*grumble* in any Place publick or private; here-'by counſelling the ſaid *Timothy* to do the ſame, 'always out of his Wife's hearing.

After this the *Board* adjourn'd to *Monday* next.

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